

House Resolution 489

By: Representatives Jackson of the 161st, Stephens of the 164th, Mitchell of the 88th,
Bordeaux of the 162nd, Day of the 163rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Georgia's Oral Health; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, prevention and education are two key factors essential to minimize or eliminate
3 dental diseases, but regular dental visits are not available to all Georgians, fluoridated water
4 is not available in all areas of the state, and the state does not provide oral health education
5 to families of newborns; and

6 WHEREAS, prevention has long been the cornerstone of dentistry, and every dollar spent
7 on prevention saves an estimated \$80.00 to \$120.00 on future expenses; and

8 WHEREAS, problems with access to dental care traverse economic, geographic, and
9 ethnographic lines, and persons from low-income families, persons with disabilities, and
10 racial and ethnic minorities are particularly affected by oral health problems; and

11 WHEREAS, Medicaid reimbursement rates are often so low that they fail to cover the
12 dentist's overhead costs for providing care, and administrative processes are so cumbersome
13 that they tend to discourage provider participation; and

14 WHEREAS, patients with dental insurance are being required to pay a greater share of costs
15 for dental care; and

16 WHEREAS, economic factors, including overhead costs, student loan debt, and the lack of
17 service cancelable loan programs and rural community incentive programs, discourage
18 dentists from practicing in some inner city and rural areas; and

19 WHEREAS, dental schools are feeling the effects of budget constraints, and are finding it
20 difficult to recruit and retain qualified faculty members; and

1 WHEREAS, proponents of recent changes adopted for Georgia's PeachCare program have
2 asserted that PeachCare will now resemble a dental program in Texas, but both providers and
3 recipients of dental care through PeachCare have many questions regarding the effects of the
4 changes.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
6 there is created the House Study Committee on Georgia's Oral Health to be composed of five
7 members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Three members
8 shall be members of the House of Representatives, and the Speaker shall appoint one member
9 from the Georgia Dental Society and one member from the Georgia Dental Association. The
10 Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The
11 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
13 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
14 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
15 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
16 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
17 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
18 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
19 Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be
20 received by any member of the committee for more than four days unless additional days are
21 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from
22 the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee makes
23 a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if
24 any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2005. The committee shall stand
25 abolished on December 1, 2005.